

How to protect your baby from Syphilis

Part 3 of a 3-part series



Chee Mamuk



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority



WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT BC WOMEN'S



BCAFC | BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres



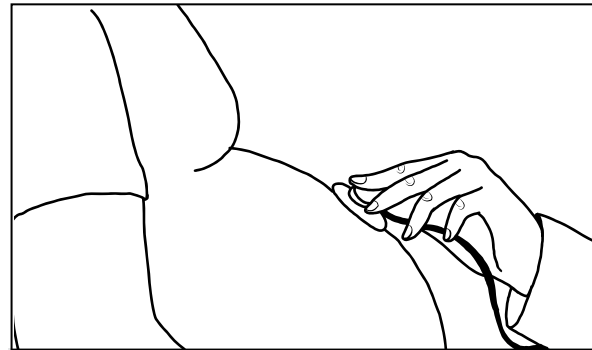
First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



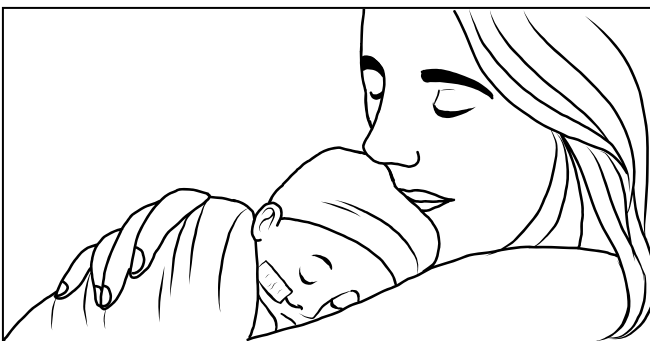
"Sue, thanks for coming in to your regular pregnancy checkup. We test for any sexually transmitted infections (STIs). You tested positive for Syphilis."



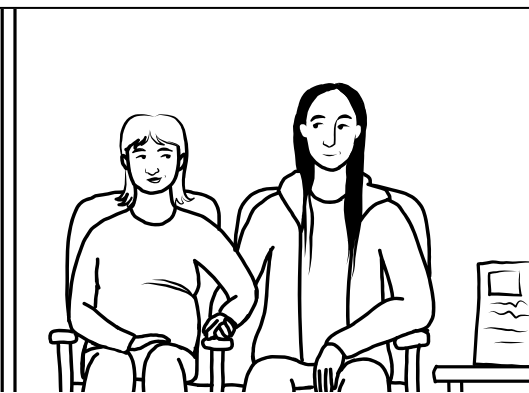
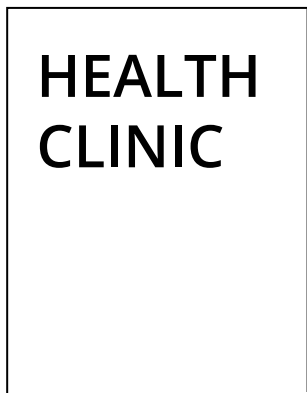
"What? Will my baby be okay?"



"We can treat you for Syphilis to protect your baby. The most important thing you can do for your baby is to get routine prenatal care while you're pregnant."



"We test for Syphilis because it can be passed onto a baby in the womb or when giving birth. This is called Congenital Syphilis, which can lead to lifelong health problems for the baby."



"Syphilis in pregnancy needs to be treated right away and at least one month before giving birth. We need to get your partner(s) tested and treated too. Results are ready in about 10 days."



"For the treatment to work and not get reinfected, it's important to try to avoid any sexual contact for 7 days after treatment."



A few months later

"It's possible to get Syphilis again, so let's get you back into the clinic for a few follow-ups before delivery. We'll work together so you and the baby are healthy through this big journey."

Illustration: Jess Stanley & Emily Pearson